

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-24 are pending herein with Claims 1 and 24 being independent claims. Claims 15-22 and 24 have been withdrawn pending rejoinder based upon a common technical feature. The remaining claims stand rejected.

Responsive to each paragraph of the office action, the Applicant has the following remarks.

Restriction/Election:

The Applicant submits that rejoinder of Claims 15-22 and 24 is appropriate given the common technical features of the holding means holding the object relative to the countermold as the undercut-forming portions are moved apart and at least the base portion is moved apart from the countermold. As described below, these features are not found in the cited references.

Specification:

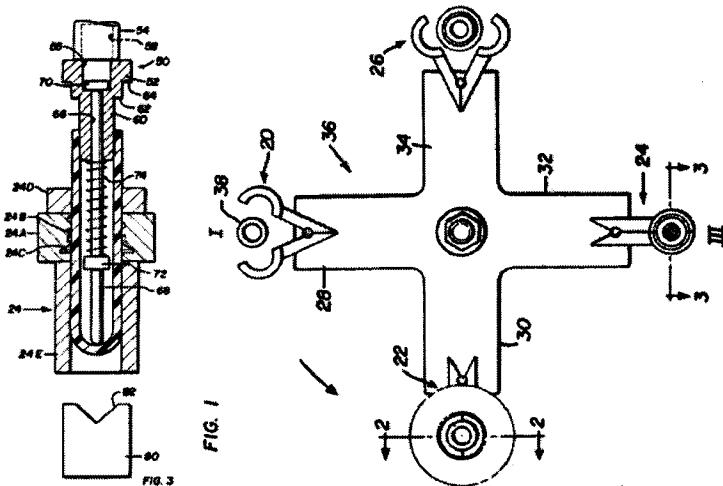
A revised abstract is submitted herewith.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-12 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,137,031 to Dickson, et al. Dickson was described as teaching an apparatus for making a plastic article with a mold having a base portion (80), a pair of undercut forming molds (24A), a countermold (50) cooperating with the undercut forming molds (24A), a piston (52), and holding means or support rings (24D-E).

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on multiple grounds. Claim 1 recites that the holding means are active and hold the object relative to the countermold when the undercut forming portions of the mold are moved apart. Further, the base portion of the mold is spaced apart from the countermold while the holding means are active. The claim thus specifically calls for holding means that are separate and apart from the undercut forming portions. Specifically, the undercut forming portions are moved apart and the holding means hold the object relative to countermold.

In Dickson, by contrast, a book type mold 24 is shown. The mold 24 includes a semi-symmetrical forming mold 24A with cavities 24B and 24C surrounded by upper and lower support member 24D and 24E. There is no disclosure whatsoever in Dickson of the support members 24D and 24E separating from the forming molds 24A. Rather, the entire mold 24 opens and shuts. Second, the mold sections 24A are opened only after the mandrel 50 (supposedly the countermold) has been moved apart from the parison 10.



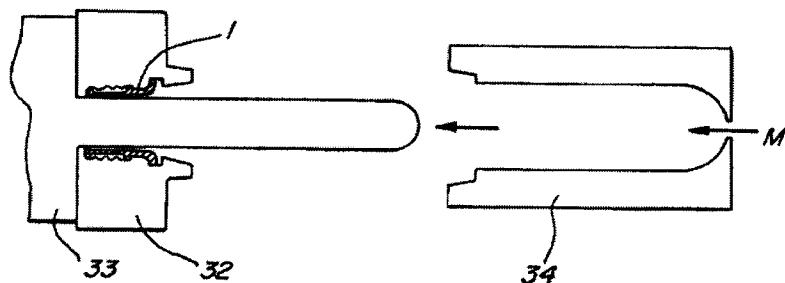
forming molds 24A have been moved apart. Fifth, the abutment 80 is lowered such that it does not contact the parison 10 during unmolding. The Applicant thus submits that independent Claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited reference for at least the reasons described herein.

The Applicant further notes that the holding means has two embodiments. The holding means of Claim 8 that become active only once the undercut forming portions have been moved apart and the holding means of Claim 10 that are already active during thermal forming. Neither embodiment is shown in the reference.

With respect to dependent Claim 2, the portions 24A do not move together with the abutment 80 as is claimed. Likewise, with respect to dependent Claim 4, the reference does not show pickup means.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,762,970 to Takashima, et al. Takashima was described as teaching an apparatus for forming a parison including a base mold (34), a pair of undercut forming molds (32), a counter mold 33, a parson receiving holders (7), and moving plates (3).

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. First, the reference does not show a plastic core 1 clamped between a mold (32, 34) and a countermold (33). Rather, as is shown in Fig. 5, the core is clamped between the undercut forming molds (32) and the center mold (33).



Second, after molding, the parison is received in a receiving hold (7). It appears that the neck mold sections (32) remain on the neck of the parison until the parison is positioned within the tube (7). As such, there is simply no holding device for holding the parison with respect to the countermold (33) after the neck mold sections have been opened. The Applicant thus submits that independent Claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited reference.

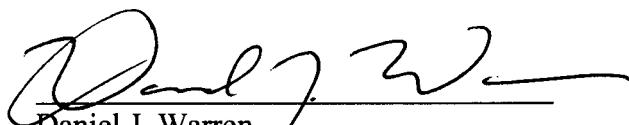
35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 6-12 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashima or Dickson and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,176,699 to Franjo, et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reason described above.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes it has responded to each matter raised in the office action. Rejoinder and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at (404) 853-8028.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Warren
Reg. No. 34,272

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP

999 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3996
(404) 853-8000
(404) 853-8806 (Facsimile)
daniel.warren@sutherland.com
SAB Docket No.: 19978.0016